

AUDUBON MAGAZINE

The Season

Formerly BIRD-LORE



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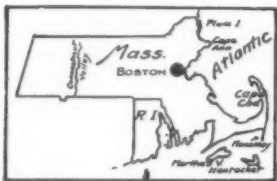
The Season

CXLIV. February 1, 1943
to April 1, 1943



BOSTON REGION

The weather has been as extraordinary as it has been trying. January was a very cold month, but with no extremes of temperature.



A blizzard with twelve inches of snow ended a very open month. The first half of February was also very cold, ending with one of the worst cold waves in history, on the fifteenth. It went to -14° at Boston, and -50° in one or two places in northern New England. It became even more remarkably warm soon thereafter, the temperature near Boston rising to over 60° on two days. The net result was that the month closed with a slight excess of heat!

The winter may definitely be described as an ornithological failure. Even the blizzard and February cold did no good, and brought no flight of any irregular winter visitor, as is ordinarily the case. If we make the proper distinction between a few stragglers and a flight, there were few white-winged gulls, no Alcids, no kittiwakes, no goshawks, no red-breasted nuthatches, no shrikes, no grosbeaks, crossbills, redpolls or siskins. The most active observers averaged ten species shy for their winter lists, plus a lack of southern lingerers. These results cannot be ascribed to gasoline shortage and the closing of the coast line to field glass observation. The absence of reports of king eider and harlequin duck is the only result of these re-

strictions. The only gains in late winter were a truly remarkable number of blue jays, which swarmed everywhere, and a marked arrival of purple finches.

It is interesting that a high percentage of the great rarities of late winter were again raptorial birds, as was true in early winter. A Richardson's owl turned up in Hartford, Conn., February 17. A white gyrfalcon at Chatham on March 19 astonished Mr. John P. Bishop. Dr. H. L. Maynard reports a great gray owl in Lincoln on March 21. A dead Atlantic murre was picked up at Chatham on February 16 (Bishop). I have just learned that an adult male Oregon junco spent the winter at several adjoining feeding stations at Lincoln from late November to late March (Prof. James Ford).

Turning now to the beginnings of spring, the remarkably warm weather of February 19-22 practically eliminated the snow cover in southern New England, and brought the first geese and pintail to favorable salt water bays. The prairie horned lark also generally arrived on all its breeding stations. With them came a very few stragglers of the earliest spring land birds, most of which were reported a few days later at feeding stations. Winter rapidly returned the last days of the month, and it was abnormally cold on March 9. A warm spell brought the first general arrival of spring birds on March 12, others trickled in on the 18th and a mass arrival of birds took place on March 21. The balance of the month saw violent oscillations of weather, and March closed with a little excess of temperature. One of the features of the season was the delay in the opening of the ponds and marshes, thanks to the exceptional thickness of the ice. On

the 21st in the Sudbury Valley, tree swallows were skimming over frozen marshes, while the frost was out of the ground in the uplands. Ordinarily, the marshes are open, while the snow still lies in patches on the uplands.

On the whole, birds arrived on time, but have been very slow in reaching normal numbers near Boston. There has been an excellent hawk flight, involving all possible nine species. The variety of ducks has also been excellent, though the tipping ducks have been scarce, possibly due to the unfavorable feeding conditions, most notably the black duck. The number of scaup has been excellent, ring-neck good, and even stray redhead and canvas-back have been reported. There has been a fine flight of Canada geese. There was a marked flight of woodcock around March 21, the best in many years. Ring-billed gulls have appeared in numbers, Holboell's grebes in breeding plumage have graced various coastal points, and the prodigious flocks of grackles have suggested the fall rather than the spring. Best of all, I found an adult European black-headed gull in Newburyport Harbor on March 21, on its old stamping grounds. It was a great disappointment, when not one of three known individuals appeared last fall. March was a most satisfactory month ornithologically after a dreary winter.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

NEW YORK REGION

Temperatures during the month of February and March were, on the whole, somewhat higher than normal, February



864 degree-days contrasted with a normal of 953 and March 791 against a normal of 846. A

cold wave of several days' duration occurred in mid-February with a minimum of -8 degrees in New York City and from -15 to -18 degrees in the rural sections. Precipitation was deficient in February and about normal in March.

There were no heavy snowstorms in either month but in most sections of the region the ground was snow-covered during most of February and for the first week of March. Inland ponds and reservoirs remained ice-bound until after March 15.

Small numbers of the usual early migrants arrived on schedule and there were but few unusually early dates. It does not seem, however, that the pioneers were followed by the usual increasing numbers. Grackles and red-wings were reported in mid-February but there was a noticeable decrease in their numbers around March 1st.

Pied-billed grebe appeared at Pompton Lake on March 19 (Hufschmid), an early date, although one seemingly wintered at East Rockaway (Nickelson). The great blue heron has remained common throughout the winter along Long Island's south shore, an early American egret at Baldwin, L. I., on March 24 (Mme. Selby and Teale). By the middle of March the site of the old colony of black-crowned night herons at Woodcliffe Lake, N. J., was again occupied (Vail).

Ducks have wintered in markedly small numbers along the northern New Jersey coast when compared with former years (Seeley) but on both the northern and the southern shores of Long Island conditions seem about normal (Elliott). Green-winged teal continue uncommon as wintering birds. A snow goose was seen at Orient on March 23 (Latham) and 800 brant spent the month of March in South Oyster Bay. Ring-necked ducks continued to increase, particularly so along the south shore of Long Island. In the early spring flocks of these birds a great preponderance of males may be noted. At the close of the period the sex ratio of males to females is five to one in northern New Jersey. By March 31 there is some sign of pairing.

At Franklin Lake a turkey vulture was reported on February 25 (Hufschmid). A very early date for the region. The goshawk, as a wintering bird, is rather unusual in this area but the reports indicate its presence in some numbers this year. Among the records are Franklin Lake, February 20 (Hufschmid), Madison, March 14 (Wright) and Shrewsbury, February 14 (Seeley). These points are all in northern

New Jersey. A large flight of red-tailed hawks was seen over Orient, L. I., March 26 (Latham). Broad-wings are passing through at the end of the period. Reports of bald eagles indicate a relatively large number wintering here. Fifteen were seen on the Hudson River at the edge of the ice on February 27 (Bull) and there are a number of other reports from Long Island and from northern New Jersey. Snowy owls have been very rare. The only report is of one at Idlewild, L. I., throughout February.

Prairie horned larks have been found breeding in past years at several locations on Long Island and in northwestern New Jersey and now they seem to have established themselves as breeders in the north-eastern part of the latter state. A pair, nesting near Paterson, hatched two young on March 31 (Hufschmid). Another nest with eggs is reported at Allwood (Ross) and a third, "probably nesting," at Long Branch (Seeley).

The tufted titmouse is extending its range in this area and a number of reports of this bird wintering on Long Island and in southern Westchester County has been submitted. In these localities this bird was considered as a casual visitor but a few years ago.

It has often been thought that a winter of very low temperatures eliminated the Carolina wrens and, following such a winter, it might be several years before they returned to the region. During the past winter the temperatures have dropped to 10 or 15 degrees below zero on two occasions but in late February several reports of these wrens came from Long Island and another from near Ridgewood, N. J.

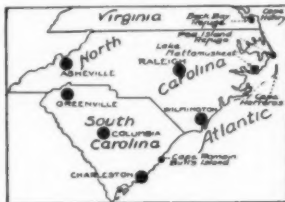
Observations of northern finches have been practically nil this winter. The only recent report is a single pine grosbeak at West Hills, L. I. (McKeever, Ryan).

On February 27 a singing European goldfinch was found at Hempstead (Elliot) and at the end of March another male was found by the same observer at Massapequa, singing at the site of the nesting of these goldfinches a year ago. Migrating fox and song sparrows arrived on time but a very early swamp sparrow was noted in Central Park on March 18 (J. T. Nichols). There may be a slight early movement of

these sparrows which has been overlooked on account of the few that winter in some of the more protected swamps in the region.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

CAROLINA REGION

Temperature somewhat below normal at Charleston and Columbia and about normal at Raleigh: precipitation much below



normal for February, but in March was decidedly above for first two places and precipitation

was about normal at Raleigh.

Inland Area—The few notes indicate no great deviation from normal. First purple martin at Summerville, S. C. (Swope) March 27 and at Columbia (Mrs. Charles) on the 30th; Columbia also had last song sparrow same day and finds myrtle warblers more common than usual, yellow-throat arrived March 16 and Raleigh on the 20th. Raleigh had bittern February 1 (Mrs. Simpson) and blue-headed vireo on March 20; Charlotte (Mrs. Clarkson) chipping sparrows February 20. Raleigh reported yellow-throated and also black and white warblers on March 24, whip-poor-will on 29th (Overing) and swift on 31st. Chuck-will's-widow at Summerville, February 24. Purple finches reported only from Charlotte, February 24, and a small flock in mid-March at Raleigh near N. C. State College. Carolina wren incubating at Columbia as period closes. Columbia also noted nesting activities, but no eggs of grackle, flicker, and cardinal.

Mountain Area—Tryon (Holmes) reports a single purple finch on February 24; and Arden (Mrs. Grinnell) near Asheville reports a few but no flocks as usual. Tryon had brown thrasher which wintered to be joined by a mate March 18; and chipping sparrows arrived on the 24th, although Arden had latter February 28. Arden also had black and white warbler February 28; brown thrasher on March 8; mountain vireo on the 13th; Bewick's wren, March 25, and white-eyed vireo on the 31st; also

two white-crowned sparrows, March 27, 29, and mockingbird, February 9.

Coastal Area—Waterfowl at Pea Island in February were about 50% of January peak; good numbers of blacks, baldpate, pintails, shovellers, gadwall, green-winged teal, scaup, buffle-heads, Canada geese and coots. Blue-winged teal arrived on time, March 24. Disease among geese only about half what it was last year. Flock of pied-billed grebes at Charleston (Chamberlain) February 20, doubtless migrants. Shore birds wintered at Pea Island (Walker) with red-backed sandpipers abundant, and black-bellied plover and sanderling rather uncommon. First arrivals there were piping plover, March 18 and next day at Back Bay (Mrs. Reed). Charleston had willet, March 20 and two days later at Back Bay. Long-billed dowitcher at Pea Island, March 26, nearly a month earlier than usual for any dowitchers; these birds formerly considered rare on east coast, but Walker's careful observations indicate them to be regular migrants in limited numbers. Back Bay had Florida gallinule, March 19; and osprey, on February 11, 14 (Mrs. Barefield) shades best for N. C. (March 5) and equals best for S. C. Charleston reports small bird population more nearly normal than last year. Arrivals: martin, February 26 at James Island, twelve days ahead of other locals which were late; swifts, March 28, Back Bay on April 1; painted bunting, March 26; least bittern, March 6, within three days of previous earliest, though a few winter. Southport, N. C. (Billy Bragaw) on March 23 had full quota of eggs in American egret's nest; osprey eggs on the 31st; and oyster-catchers on March 22: all three are early dates for North Carolina, but probably normal as observers have been few in this territory. Sailing out of Chesapeake Bay March 21, Wendell Whitmore reported many petrels and gannets-species about which we know little for the Bay.—C. S. BRIMLEY, 515 Washington Ave., and JOHN H. GREY, JR., 2718 Vandervilt Ave., Raleigh, N. C.

PHILADELPHIA REGION

With the exception of some very mild springlike days in March, the weather for the period averaged normal.



Interest for the most part centered around the waterfowl. The more unusual records were: Bush River, Md., March 19, a raft of ducks mostly redheads (100

perhaps) with some baldpates (Moore); Fries Mill, N. J., February 28, hooded merganser 4 (Jacobs); March 7, 9 (Manners); ring-necked duck, numerous records along the Delaware River-Riverton, N. J., March 22, 5 (Moore); Salem County, N. J., March 21, 40 (Coman); Salem County, N. J., March 21, Canada goose, 500 (Coman); wood duck reports indicate that this duck is present in greatly reduced numbers compared with the numbers for last year. Perhaps one-half to one-third less have been seen in their customary haunts. Blue-winged teal have been reported in small numbers up to the end of March.

Ferryville, Md., March 25, most of the big flock of wintering whistling swans took off, northward bound. The previous night their usual honking increased to a clamorous uproar (Whitaker).

Breeding American egrets arrived at Paulsboro, N. J., at a somewhat early date. Five were observed March 21 (Manners). Curiously enough at another breeding point farther south in Salem County none were observed in March.

March records of long-eared owls included 11 at Ambler, Pa., March 9 (J. Cadbury), Kresson, N. J., March 28, 5 (Potter). One spent the day in a tree in a Philadelphia city yard, date (?) (Street).

The mockingbird which has been present all winter at Riverton, N. J., was joined by a mate (?) March 31. The wintering bird was a female. The spring arrival was a male.

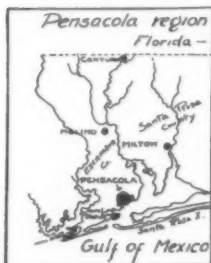
During the winter, reports of rare northern finches have been entirely lacking.

Black-capped chickadees have been reported only occasionally. White-breasted nuthatch has been reported as more common than usual.

No records from the coast have been received. This is due for the most part to war restrictions.—JULIAN K. POTTER, 437 Park Avenue, Collingswood, N. J.

PENSACOLA (FLA.) REGION

The warm dry weather of the preceding period continued through February. An excess of rainfall in March brought



the total for the present period up to normal. March 4 was the coldest day of the whole winter, with the thermometer reading 24° on the coast and several degrees lower inland. This was the last freeze of the season, and temperatures for the remainder of the period were little below normal.

Two unprecedented occurrences were the appearance of a single black-throated green warbler on February 7 and the presence all winter of an indigo bunting. The warbler, a male, seen by several observers, was in company with a foraging band of chickadees, titmice and kinglets. The bunting, also a male, was reported by Mrs. A. L. Whigham on February 4 as having been seen often since early December at the feeding shelves in her garden at Century. At the end of the period, she reported that the bunting was still present and that it had acquired full nuptial plumage. Black and white warblers, rare in winter, were seen on February 7 and 14. A single willet on February 28 is unusual in winter, and a ground dove (March 21) is a rarity in this immediate area at any season.

Robins and bluebirds, both fully recovered from the reduction of numbers by the severe freeze of January, 1940, were abundant on February 14. The unusual abundance of cedar waxwings, reported in the preceding period, persisted through February, then dwindled to about normal numbers by the end of March. Golden-crowned kinglets, usually rare or absent, were widely distributed and almost common. The usual flock of purple finches, reported by Mrs. Whigham at Century for several winters, was much reduced in number this year. Their place was taken by an unusual abundance of goldfinches, which, Mrs. Whigham reported, swarmed

in her garden up to the end of the period. Ring-necked ducks, occurring regularly in small flocks, increased in numbers in March. Two flocks of 40 and 60 birds were seen on March 7, and smaller numbers on other days.

A flock of 60 white ibises, seen on March 14, was earlier by a day than ever before recorded. Chimney swift, reported on the same day (Mrs. Whigham) equaled its previous earliest record. Purple martin on February 4 (Mrs. Whigham) was ten days earlier than average and only a day later than the earliest arrival ever recorded.

Other arrival dates, average or nearly so, include: osprey, February 22; lesser yellow-legs, February 28; American egret, March 7; Parula warbler, March 10 (Miss L. Pate); ruby-throated hummingbird (Mrs. Whigham), little blue heron and Wilson's plover, March 21; red-eyed vireo and summer tanager (both reported by Mrs. Whigham), hooded warbler (Mrs. J. F. Wernicke) and solitary sandpiper (late) March 27; upland plover (11 birds) March 28; least bittern (flew into a building and was caught) March 30; eastern kingbird and orchard oriole, March 31 (Mrs. Whigham). Several common species, usually reported in this period, could not be found: crested flycatcher, wood pewee, wood thrush, yellow-throated vireo, prothonotary warbler and Kentucky warbler.

The only departure dates noted are: bufflehead (rare), last seen on March 14; golden-crowned kinglet, March 28 (very late).

Black vulture was first seen in mating flight on February 7. In the Ward's heron colony, reported in previous years, incubation was well under way on March 28. A third nest of the bald eagle (2 were reported in the preceding period) was found on February 28 within 250 yards of the hubbub of construction of a new military road. The nest is inaccessibly situated in a swamp, but it is in plain view from the road and the eagles are very nervous. However, one bird was incubating closely when discovered, and it left the nest only when the observers approached within 100 yards. On March 28, the place was revisited and the nest was seen to contain halfgrown young birds. These young birds,

if they survive, will not be ready for flight before the second week of May, while most of the young eagles that I have seen in this region made their initial flights about the third week of March.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 East Jordan Street, Pensacola, Fla.

OHIO-MICHIGAN REGION

Temperatures averaged close to normal for February and March in Ohio and southern Michigan. Snowfall in February was light generally, but in northern Michigan a heavy snow persisted and the winter for wildlife, as reported by game protectors, remained severe through March 20. Consistently chilly days early in March delayed the thawing of marshes and lakes for a period of one or two weeks.

Migration—Early migrants, for the most part, appeared at the usual dates, but often in small numbers at first. The thaws of late February and early March brought good flights of ducks, particularly pintails and baldpates, to the marshes and flooded fields of Ohio. These species reached central Michigan in numbers late in March. Divers, appearing later as the ice left the bays and larger lakes, also passed through in encouraging numbers. Thousands of canvas-backs were at Sandusky Bay, March 21 (Skaggs and Kirtland Bird Club) and 4600 were counted at nearby Catawba and East Harbor, March 24 (Hicks).

At about the expected time, woodcock moved up through Ohio: Cincinnati, February 26; Columbus, February 28; Cleveland, March 21; Toledo, March 24. Redwings were numerous at Toledo, March 7, and at Battle Creek, March 12. Phoebes were noted March 15 at Oxford, in southwestern Ohio, and in the northern part of the state March 21. Flocks of robins

were reported with unusual frequency in February throughout Ohio, and these birds were common in southern and central Ohio by March 1 and in northern Ohio and southern Michigan by March 15.

Observed in small numbers at rather early dates were these: horned grebe on February 16 (probably wintering) in Muskegon County, Mich., on March 4 near Lansing (Douglass), on March 8 at Ashland, Ohio (Kahl), and on March 15 at Canton (Mitchell, Pratt); golden plover (1), Wilson's snipe, pectoral sandpiper, and both yellow-legs on March 27 at Toledo; purple martin on March 21 at Sandusky Bay and on March 30 at Battle Creek (Pirnie).

Notes of Interest—This period brings three records of the rare and erratic Holboell's grebe (the first two were captured): March 13, near Lansing (Wilson); February 17 and March 21, near Youngstown (Cook and Northrup). An old-squaw also made a rare appearance at Youngstown, March 28 (Minich, Cook).

More golden-eye ducks than usual wintered in the swift streams of Michigan (Douglass, Baker, Haines). Whistling swans, 700 this winter, continue to increase as wintering birds at the Detroit River-Lake St. Clair area.

Wherever baldpates migrate in numbers, close observation is revealing male European widgeons fairly regularly. This spring 2 were seen at Youngstown, March 28 (Minich and Cook), and at Toledo, March 28 (Campbell).

Northern gulls are occurring more frequently in recent years along Lake Erie. At least one great black-backed gull stayed most of the winter near Put-in-Bay (Trautman), 1 was seen at Cleveland (Skaggs and others), and the unprecedented number of 11 were observed in less than ten miles of beach at Monroe County, Mich., near Toledo, March 7. Single glaucous gulls were seen in Monroe County, February 27 and 28, and March 7.

Scattered pairs of sandhill cranes began to arrive in breeding territory in Jackson County, Mich., March 11. However, it is interesting to hear that at Jasper-Pulaski Park in Jasper and Pulaski counties, Ind., which is outside the limits of this region but apparently in the path of migration



of Michigan cranes, there was a great concentration in March, reaching a maximum of 350 birds on March 21 (Walkinshaw).

An adult pigeon hawk, uncommon throughout this region, was seen eating its kill on the ground March 7 in Pickaway County, south-central Ohio (Hicks). Another was present late in February at Oxford, Ohio (Mattox).

Tardily reported is an immature gyrfalcon, shot at a pheasant farm near Bowling Green, Ohio, during November. The specimen is mounted and kept at Bowling Green University, and is believed to be the second for the state.

Short-eared owls were seen repeatedly from late February into early March near Oxford, including a group of 12 on the ground of one five-acre field. There was a minor flight of snowy owls this winter, but most records came before February (Douglass). At Lansing, 2 were present February 5 (Wilson). A horned owl's nest near Cincinnati held 2 eggs February 21. This seems to be a normal date in that locality (Maslowski).

It is of interest that 15 white-crowned sparrows, not expected in northern Ohio until the first week in May, visited a feeding station in southern Ohio at Cincinnati, just north of the winter range, February 24 (Maslowski).

Brown-backed juncos appeared again at Oxford, 2 (Mattox) and at Canton, 3 (Mitchell, Pratt) in March. The few specimens of supposed Oregon juncos taken in this region previously have been placed in Shufeldt's subspecies or, more frequently, in a position of intermediacy between Shufeldt's and the slate-colored form. This illustrates the difficulty of evaluating sight records of these variable forms.—HAROLD MAYFIELD, 3311 Parkwood Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

MISSOURI REGION

Temperatures during February were about normal, followed by unusual cold and snow during the first three weeks of March. Although precipitation for the two months was somewhat below normal, water levels remained high because of excess rainfall in 1942. The cold weather in March retarded the development of vegetation and slowed down the migra-



tion of some species of birds but seemed to have little effect upon the northward movement of waterfowl.

Observers in the St. Louis

and Kansas City areas report that mallards, black ducks, pintails, baldpates, lesser scaup, ring-necked ducks, redheads, and American golden-eye wintered in small numbers, seeking refuge on the larger rivers when freezing weather closed the lakes and marshes. Migrating blue geese were first observed in Platte County, February 28. Mixed flocks of blues and lesser snows were seen there March 16. Several small flocks of Canada geese, blues and lesser snows, were reported from Sullivan on March 10 (Moore). Great flocks of mallards and pintails were observed at St. Louis and Kansas City the third week of February (5,000 pintails at Beverly Lake, Platte County, February 21). In the Saint Louis area, Wayne Short reports a substantial increase in redheads and canvas-backs over the last few years (500 canvas-backs at Harbor Point, St. Charles County, February 20). More than 500 American mergansers were seen at Bean Lake, February 28. The green-winged teal appeared early at Kansas City, February 21. Herring gulls came in during February and reached a high of about 500 at Pere Marquette, March 21. At the end of March many remained with small numbers of ring-billed gulls about the overflow pond in St. Louis and St. Charles Counties, feeding upon the stranded fish. Short also reports that the golden plover visited St. Charles County literally in thousands during the last half of March and that Wilson's snipe shows quite an increase this year. The upland plover appeared rather early in St. Louis County, March 26 (Cunningham). Small numbers of pectoral sandpipers and lesser yellowlegs were present at the end of the month.

Eastern red-tails and marsh hawks passed through in about normal numbers during the last half of February and early March. The western red-tail, Harlan's and Kridler's hawks were observed in the Kansas

City area February 28. The red-shouldered hawk rather rare in western Missouri, especially in winter, was seen at Parkville on February 16 and 21. Two pigeon hawks were reported from Kansas City February 20 (Mr. and Mrs. Cole). Ten bald eagles were seen at Pere Marquette Park, March 21 (Berry, Father Link).

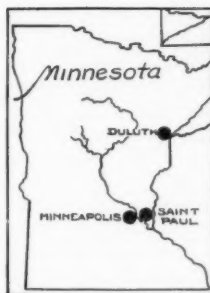
Wintering finches, the cardinal excepted, were subnormal in numbers, particularly in the western part of the region. Repeated checks of the extensive weed patches showed less than half the usual number of juncos, tree sparrows and song sparrows during the winter. But one Arctic towhee was seen wintering there and only an occasional fox sparrow, white-throated or Harris's sparrow. No Lapland longspurs or pine siskins were reported.

The movement of fox and Harris's sparrows began the last week of February. Waves of eastern meadowlarks, red-wings, bronzed grackles, towhees, song and fox sparrows were noticeable during March—but in general the month produced little of interest in the way of small land birds. The rusty blackbird was perhaps more common than usual. Most species were slightly behind schedule.

Among the unusual observations for the period were: the old-squaw at Pere Marquette, March 21, and the surf scoter in the same area on February 21 (Berry, Father Link); a raven at Harbor Point, St. Charles County, January 17 (several observers); the western meadowlark in St. Louis County, March 28 (Cunningham); Henslow's sparrow at Quivera Lake, Kans., March 28 (Harford, Shirling); a red-shafted flicker at the same location during February and March (Hedges); the woodcock nesting at Glendale, suburban St. Louis, March 28 and the Bohemian waxwing at the same locality, March 3 (Leonard); and four myrtle warblers at Parkville on February 28, the first winter record in twenty-five years (Cole, Harford, Cunningham).—J. W. CUNNINGHAM and RUSSELL SPOTSWOOD, 217 South Meramec, Clayton, Mo.

MINNESOTA REGION

The continued and severe cold of the previous months persisted through February and March has been a tempestuous



and wintry month. Several severe blizzards occurred and temperatures way below zero have been the order of the day. March 1 and 2 were the coldest March inaugural for 30 years with the thermometer down to 11° below

zero at Minneapolis and 25° below at International Falls. From March 15 to 19, there was a continuous storm with deep snow and high winds that paralyzed the whole state—worst for 50 years (The Highway Department). The last big storm must have destroyed many horned larks' nests for the more venturesome birds had already essayed nest-building where they could find a bare spot. Occasional brief mild spells with sleet and drizzle coated the trees with glistening layers of ice, a condition bad for the birds. On the whole it has been one of the very worst slippery winters and the hospitals have been full of broken arms, legs, and cracked skulls.

The cold spring delayed vegetation ten days or two weeks, but the early migrants came on average time or even a trifle ahead—for example the purple martin, with an average arrival date in southern Minnesota of April 13, was reported at Fairmont, Martin County, March 29 (Logan), Minneapolis, same date, and a little farther north at Dassel, March 30 (Jensen, "My earliest date"); killdeer, average March 13, St. Paul, March 14 (Longley); great blue heron, average March 26, Brainerd, March 27 (Thabes), March 28, Minneapolis (Longley); cowbird, average April 8, St. Paul, March 31 (Longley). An exceptional record was the black-crowned night heron on March 30 (Longley), earliest previous date April 5.

Items of Special Interest—A flock of 100, or so, Bohemian waxwings at Minneapolis and vicinity from February 2 to March 6. Pine grosbeak remained at Duluth until March 30, a late date (Mrs. Olin). At least 5 bluebirds remained at Duluth all winter (Lakela, Olin, and others). Mrs. Olin reported seeing a mountain bluebird at Duluth from February

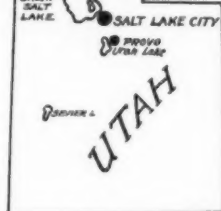
2 to 14 and the identification was supported by several members of the Duluth Bird Club. Messrs. Longley and Harold found a pair of red-shouldered hawks beginning a nest on February 22 at Pine Bend, not far below St. Paul. A flock of 100 Canada geese in a corn field near Shakopee, not far south of Minneapolis on February 21 (Jack Welsh). Horned lark building a nest March 27, 1 egg, April 1 (St. Paul, Longley). The pair of tufted titmice reported at Marine-on-the-St. Croix, in the last article, has remained until the present time (Miss Edgar) and a second pair of this uncommon visitor fed with other birds at Mrs. Wentling's feeding station at St. Paul earlier in the winter.

On March 16, Dr. Olga Lakela of Duluth wrote to me as follows: "I am just back from the Duluth Harbor where I found the fine male old-squaw which I am sending you, dead. The men in the U. S. Engineering Building told me that there is an epidemic among the old-squaws. They estimated that more than half of the some 16 ducks in the ship canal had died. They said that when the ducks came to the open water in the canal they were active and dived freely, but in a day or so they became weak and sick. According to them, 12 dead ducks have been seen floating in the canal." Later a female old-squaw was received from Miss Evelyn Jones of Duluth which had been picked up dead on the highway just south of Two Harbors. At French River a fisherman brought in 2 ducks too weak to move. They died soon after. On March 14 a duck alighted on Superior Avenue in Duluth and was killed by a car. Mr. Eckman, Game Warden, sent an old-squaw to the University farm to be examined. The three birds sent to the University have all been carefully posted by competent men and no cause of death was found other than starvation. They were all in an extreme state of emaciation and the stomachs and intestines entirely empty. The reason is not far to seek. Lake Superior froze far out this winter. Mrs. Olin wrote March 31 "the ice in this end of Lake Superior has been solid since January 19." This would force the ducks so far out that, even though they are such marvelous divers, they would find the water too deep to reach their food. The short stretch of

open water in the ship canal evidently did not supply the needed food to those that sought it out in their extremity. Just how many ducks perished is not known but the number was evidently not as great as in a similar occurrence in the winter of 1903-4 (Birds of Minnesota, Volume 1, p. 273).—THOMAS S. ROBERTS, Director, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, Minn.

UTAH REGION

Inasmuch as my assignment to this task was received too late to report on the midwinter birds it may not be amiss to include as an introduction, a brief summary of that period.



Our whole winter has been characterized by unusual mildness and humidity, though occasionally broken by short sharp freezing spells that marked the end of a storm period. Most of our rains ended with snowfalls, some of them very heavy, but as they fell on unfrozen ground, it was soon gone on all sunlit surfaces even into our higher elevations of 10,000 feet or more.

Under such conditions neither birds nor animals were forced to concentrate in their regular wintering places, and so were able to fare much better, scattered over a larger area.

All running water remained open even during the sharpest spells, and inlets to our ponds and lakes kept enough open water to hold a large population of waterfowl throughout the winter as well as a few shore birds.

Three greater yellow-legs and one lesser with two or three least sandpipers, 50 or more killdeer and at least one Virginia rail spent the entire winter at the south end of Deckers Lake and were still present on the 14th of March. Mallards, pintails by several hundred each, with a fair sprinkling of gadwalls, baldpates, green-wings, shovellers, canvas-backs and American mergansers were observed on all visits. Coots, one great blue heron, marsh hawks,

marsh wrens, red-wings, meadowlarks, horned larks, tree and song sparrows were all well represented throughout the winter about this lake and have continued into the period of this report. This list could be duplicated and even added to at most of the open ponds of the region.

At Farmington Bay Refuge, 15 miles north of the city, 46 whistling swans wintered. They were first observed by Ellis R. Wilson, several times seen by the writer up to March 14 and 30 were still present on March 27 according to Rex B. Snow. About 50 Canada geese were present on all visits.

Waterfowl were fairly abundant in these parts throughout the winter, and Lee Cox, Caretaker of the New State Gun Club and Jordan Fur Farm, noted a decided increase in the duck population from about January 20 on and reaching its peak during the first week in March. From thence a decrease was noticeable. Pintails dominated the migration but by March 28 Mr. Snow reports that mallards were in excess of the pintails by nearly two to one, estimating no more than 1000 pintails over entire Farmington Bay Refuge on that date.

So far as Mr. Cox knew, the lesser snow geese gave this part of the region a go by this spring as he saw only three flocks and not exceeding a total of 200 birds about February 20 but which did not stay at the gun club. Usually between 5000 and 10,000 of this species concentrate on the salt flats northwest of this gun club and move into the fresh water each evening to feed. But the proximity of an Army flying field probably explains their absence this year as they are afraid of planes.

Some other contributions for March 28 by Mr. Snow on the Farmington Bay Refuge include 25 great blue herons, 15 marbled godwits, and 26 long-billed curlews.

Through the kindness of Mr. Venez T. Wilson, Superintendent of the Bear River Refuge, and his assistant, Mr. Young, I am indebted for the following first observations of the year: western grebe, 4, March 21, fairly common by the 28th; white pelican, 2, March 25, 16 on the 28th; double-crested cormorant, 5, March 23; snowy egret, 1, March 21; lesser snow geese, 18, February 16, last flock of about 500 last seen March 25; cinnamon teal, 6, March 14; canvas-back, 30, February 16, increased

to 1900 by March 15; lesser scaup, 47, February 22; ruddy duck, 14, February 22; long-billed curlew, 1, March 22, common along highway to refuge March 28; avocet, 2, March 11, common by March 28; California gull, 120, March 1; burrowing owl, 1, March 11; yellow-headed blackbird, 2, March 21; sage sparrow, 1, March 15. Mr. Wilson also informs me that the whistling swan has increased from about 1000 wintering birds to 4200 by March 15. The refuge service also estimated the duck population on March 15 at 100,000 of which fully one-half were pintails, and this represents only a portion of the ducks of that region, for with this year's abundance of water, every pond, swale, and pasture has a large duck assemblage.

The writer visited the refuge on March 28 and found the swans and canvas-backs still present, also noted between 400 and 500 Canada geese, mostly paired. Two herring gulls were the only other outstanding observation as these gulls are rather rare in this region.

The redhead has either been overlooked or was slow coming in as I have no earlier record for the year than my own of March 14 at Deckers Lake. The lesser scaup on the other hand which ordinarily occurs in limited numbers was massed fully 1000 strong on the Farmington Bay Refuge by March 6.

My first observation of the California gulls was on the eve of March 6 on Farmington Bay, and on the following evening fully 1000 birds were present in the same area, and for the most part had occupied the favored artificial islands on which they had been breeding for three or four years.

It has been a big year for Bohemian waxwings. On February 3 the population was estimated at several thousand on the east benches of Salt Lake Valley. The last large flock reported was of about 300 birds on the east bench of the city during the week around March 7 by Miss Nettie Bradford. A smaller flock of some 50 to 100 birds continued to visit the home of Ray Cowburn until March 15.

Evening grosbeaks must have moved out as only two observations have been reported since February 1.

From the north end of Utah Lake, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Dewey reported on March 18: western grebes; white pelicans; Canada

geese; cinnamon teal; a pair of great horned owls; a pair of long-eared owls at old nesting sites; and two large flocks of crows. The crow, as reported in Bailey's Handbook of Western Birds, is rare in the Great Basin, which has also been the writer's experience with this bird, but for the past ten or twelve years they have been coming into northern Utah County to winter in increasing numbers.

Our feeding station members and friends have had, despite the open winter, a large number of winter visitants. Mr. and Mrs. Rex B. Snow have handed in the following from their new home on the Bountiful Bench, Davis County: 15 ring-necked pheasants; 300 California quail; 400 juncos, including four species; 10 Gambel's sparrows; 20 spotted towhees; 1 mountain chickadee; 1 flock, black-capped chickadees; 1 downy woodpecker; 2 creepers; and 1 solitaire.

Mr. E. R. Wilson of Centerville also reports an abundance of juncos including four species, slate-colored, pink-sided, gray-headed and Montanas, of which the largest per cent is Montanas. Most of the birds listed by Mr. Snow were also listed by Mr. Wilson.

From the Maxfield Lodge in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Mrs. Renders reports 30 or more Steller's jays; 2 Clark's nutcrackers; 1 magpie; and several black-capped chickadees that come from the mountain heights at her call, and in the creek at the rear of her kitchen 5 water ouzels have learned to enjoy hamburger when placed on the shore. This feeding call response was observed by the writer on February 21.

My first mountain bluebirds were observed in Salt Lake Valley on February 21 and two small migrating flocks on March 7. Mr. Snow reports them as common in Davis County on March 15. A later and much larger migration of mountain bluebirds was noted by Mr. Kenneth R. Tanner on his recent return from California. From Orderville, Utah, to Sevier a distance of 100 miles on Highway 89, flocks were numerous along the route, and on Highway 91 on the same day, March 19, from Sevier Lake to Spanish Fork, flocks were again numerous but from thence on through the settlements to Salt Lake City only a few were observed.

The robin and junco migration reached

their peak on March 15 through Salt Lake Valley. First record for yellow-headed blackbirds and savannah sparrows, March 14, vesper sparrow, March 28. Two bald eagles reported for the region, one by E. R. Wilson on the Farmington Bay Refuge on February 21, and one by the writer on the Bear River Refuge on March 28.

It will be good news to all bird lovers to learn that sage grouse have been reported from two opposite points in Salt Lake County by Game Warden R. S. Terry. One flock of 18 birds was seen quite regularly throughout the winter on a deer feeding ground in Mountain Dell, only 11 miles east of Salt Lake City. The other flock occurred on the bench lands at the foot of the Oquirrh Mountains about 20 miles west of the city.—CHARLES W. LOCKERBIE, 223 West 9th South Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

TEXAS COASTAL REGION

The Weather—The phenomenally dry and mild winter continued. It was broken only by quick, short cold spells with freezing

temperatures February 18-19 and March 4-5. Otherwise, the winter merged by imperceptible stages into a warm and dry

spring, but arrival of birds was delayed.

General Conditions—Little need be added under this heading to what was said in the previous *Season* article. Nothing new developed except added confirmation of the abundance of goldfinches and robins, and new information that eared grebes and cinnamon teal were unusually numerous at Eagle Lake (70 miles west of Houston) all winter and well into February. Except for a certain correlation between the good weather and the departure of winter visitors, and a lack of correlation between the good weather and the arrival of new spring migrants, the season was not especially interesting.

Migrations—Departure dates of wintering species were generally early. A comparison between some of this year's departure dates and average previous departure



dates in the upper Galveston Bay region follows:

	1943	Average
Canada goose.....	March 12	March 24
White-fronted goose.....	March 17	March 26
Lesser snow goose.....	March 22	March 26
Blue goose.....	March 22	March 25
Sparrow hawk.....	March 31	April 6
Phoebe.....	March 24	March 23
Brown creeper.....	March 7	March 23
Golden-crowned kinglet.....	March 25	March 21
Orange-crowned warbler.....	March 20	March 28
Rusty blackbird.....	March 28	March 19
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	March 24	March 26

Of these 11 wintering species, 8 departed earlier than average.

On the other hand, spring arrival dates of many migrants from the south were later than average. Quite noticeable was the fact that several species (mountain plover, golden plover, solitary sandpiper, black-necked stilt, eastern kingbird, scissor-tailed flycatcher, catbird, and prothonotary warbler) which usually show up in late March had not been reported from the upper Galveston Bay region at the end of that month. Some arrival dates of other species follow:

	1943	Average
Yellow-cr. night heron...	March 19	March 24
Osprey	March 13	April 2
Upland plover.....	March 14	March 17
Pectoral sandpiper.....	March 14	March 17
Whip-poor-will	March 14	April 2
Chuck-will's-widow	March 28	March 30
Chimney swift.....	March 24	March 23
Ruby-th. hummingbird.....	March 25	March 20
Crested flycatcher	March 28	March 25
Purple martin.....	Feb. 7	Feb. 15
Rough-winged swallow.....	March 22	March 18
White-eyed vireo.....	March 20	March 12
Yellow-throated vireo.....	March 28	March 21
Parula warbler.....	March 20	March 15
Sycamore warbler.....	March 20	March 10
Louisiana water-thrush.....	March 28	March 17
Hooded warbler.....	March 21	March 24

Of these 17 species, 9 arrived later than average. Since most of these late dates involve small woodland birds, the presumption must be that the birds passed over the region during the good weather of March, and did not pause to give us a chance to see and record them. Yet the entire season seemed late and slow.

Nesting — Yellow-crowned night herons had eggs at Houston on March 27. Red-shouldered hawks were almost a month late in their nesting, with no eggs found in the Houston region till March 27. Blue jays in Houston were carrying nesting material as early as February 7, and were

incubating eggs at the end of March. Mocking birds began building on February 9, but for some reason were slow in completing their mating and laying; no eggs were observed in Houston up to the end of March. Here, too, the season seemed late and slow.

Unusual Records — Ludlow Griscom reports an adult white ibis at the Aransas Refuge, February 13, a chuck-will's-widow there, February 15, and a Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow at Rockport, February 14. A white-winged scoter at Rockport, March 20 (Mrs. Hagar) and a white-tailed kite at Cove, February 7 (McKay) were notable but not unprecedented.—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Tex.*

SAN FRANCISCO REGION

Indications are numerous that birds are scarcer in this region than in normal years. Despite the lack of clues as to possible reasons for such a



scarcity, the evidence for it comes from too many sources to be accidental or the result of sparse observation. Reports from observers have decreased, however, to the point which makes the summary for the region

inadequate. This can be remedied only by more persons making special effort to keep written record of what they see and then sharing it with others whose opportunities for field work have been curtailed. Results of watching about our homes may be more interesting and valuable than the finds made on long trips.

Birds along the shore are receiving less attention than for many years, but many more observations have been reported than can be included here. Among these are the following: Eared grebe, Dumbarton Bridge, 200 to 300 on pool nearest bay, March 12 (Allen); surf scoter, Cypress Point, only one flock of 18 in a 4-hour period on March 17, at the same place in a like period two weeks later at least 12 flocks numbering 560 birds were flying northward on March 31 (Williams); short-

billed gull, Lake Merritt, a few on February 26 (Leffler); ancient murrelet, Pacific Grove, 2 on February 8, Cypress Point, 1 on February 17 (W.).

These records indicate the early departure or movement of several kinds of wintering birds. In some instances a species considered to be winter visitant in one locality is properly known as a summer bird over most of the region. Red-breasted nuthatch, Carmel, last on March 26 (Williams), Berkeley, recorded in pines or cypresses in hills from February 16 to March 31 (Allen); varied thrush, Oakland Scout Camp, March 26 (Cain), Piedmont, March 27 (Kelly); blue-gray gnatcatcher, Carmel, last on March 19 (W.).

Arrival of summer birds, as revealed by the following records, has been that of an ordinary year with respect to time at least. Turkey vulture, Oakland hills near Sequoia Park, February 14 (Seibert); western flycatcher, Pebble Beach, 2 on March 18 (Williams), Berkeley, March 22 (Allen); violet-green swallow, Tesla, large flock on March 15 (S.); rough-winged swallow, Carmel, 2 on March 15 (W.), Lake Temescal, March 19 (Leffler); barn swallow, east of Pittsburg, observed in flight song, March 13 (Pitelka), Carmel, March 15 (W.); cliff swallow, Berkeley, flying over Life Science building on March 21 (Cain); warbling vireo, Berkeley, March 20 (P.); solitary vireo, Howell Mountain, March 27 (Clark); orange-crowned warbler, Stockton, 3 on February 12 (Harwell), Berkeley, February 21 (A.), Longspur, February 26 (Courtright); pileated warbler, Berkeley, March 25 (A.), Carmel, March 31 (W.).

Remarkably favorable weather for birds has allowed good progress with nesting activities as revealed in the numerous examples in the following list. Red-tailed hawk, near Livermore, pair at nest on March 15 (Seibert), Tollhouse road, 6 miles above Academy, Fresno County, one on nest, March 15 (Hawbecker); Anna's hummingbird, Berkeley, young well grown in a nest, February 13 (Pitelka), young left nest in a soap tree, February 27 (Helen Coxhead); California woodpecker, Carmel, one working on nest hole, March 23 (Williams); red-shafted flicker, Carmel, one working at nest hole, March 23 (W.); California jay, Berkeley, collecting nest material on March 3 (P.) and 31 (Allen);

bush-tit, Berkeley, nest with young, February 15 (S.); Carmel, 3 eggs being incubated in nest on March 10 (W.); Hutton's vireo, Berkeley, began singing on February 12 (A.); Brewer's blackbird, Carmel, pair noted February 3, first handling of nesting material by male on March 10, nest building on March 30 (W.); house finch, Carmel, feeding of female by male on March 23 (W.); Lawrence's goldfinch, Carmel, pair gathering nesting material on March 25 (W.); junco, Carmel, young being fed out of nest on March 31 (W.).

Changes in a bird fauna are sometimes indicated by such unexpected reports of occurrence as the ones given in this paragraph. Some of the items pertain merely to species not regularly observed in this part of the state. Osprey, one flying across Carmel Bay from Point Lobos to Pebble Beach, on March 18 (Williams); pigeon hawk, Carmel Rivermouth, one on March 19 and 20 (W.); valley quail, Panoche Pass, covey of about 10 in dry hills where nearest known water is 4 miles distant, the first quail detected here in 3 years (Hawbecker); Lewis's woodpecker, valley near Durham, only 2 seen in the period, where large numbers were present in 1942 (England); yellow-shafted flicker, orchard near Durham, one present, the fifth observed in that area (E.); mockingbird, Durham, singing in first week of March where a few are usually present in late winter and early spring (England); hermit warbler, Carmel, one on February 1 (W.); black-throated gray warbler, Howell Mountain, March 31 (Clark); evening grosbeak, Kentfield, about 100 in early February (Courtright), along highway between Durham and Chico, present in February and March and in last 3 or 4 years feeding on nuts of introduced pistacio trees (E.); black-headed grosbeak, Mrs. Courtright reported a captive caught in 1918 died in February, 1943, after 25 years; brown towhee, Berkeley, noted only once or twice near a house where normally present through the year (A.); rufous-crowned sparrow, Hamilton Canyon, Berkeley, singing on February 28 where it was diminished by July fire in 1921 and very rare since (A.).

Presence of a small colony of ringed turtle doves in Berkeley is reported by Harwell. He heard the notes of these

birds on February 11 near his home at the head of Hilgard Avenue, and then found three of them in some redwoods. As he called to the birds, they came out onto the open power wires. Inquiry revealed that a woman living nearby had released the doves. She had bought four in 1925 and they escaped from their cage the next day. These finally disappeared, and about six years ago she bought and released four more. The remaining three stay within a hundred yards of the house, always returning there to eat and to roost. So far there has been no increase in number.—
JEAN M. LINDALE, Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

Slightly above normal temperatures and a fair percentage of clear weather made for a gradual yet early spring. There were



no cold spells but warm, heavy rains on March 3 and 4 did some damage to early nests and to cover along water courses, though benefiting other areas by insuring

luxuriant vegetation.

Water birds showed continual good numbers, but no great concentrations. Very few loons (red-throated only). All the commoner herons regular; largest flock of black-crowned night herons—99 at Mugu, March 14 (Daugherty). Two to 15 white-faced glossy ibis at Bolsa Chica and Playa del Rey all during period.

Geese—One cackling goose wintered at Echo Park, L. A., until at least April 4; another "park" bird, an immature white-fronted, flew into Santa Anita Rancho park, February 9 (Quattlebaum)—present yet on April 3. White-fronted geese also, in complete wild state at Playa del Rey, February 4 (Stultz) and March 14 (several observers), at Bolsa Chica, 15 on February 7 (Murdock, Fairbanks, Cogswell), and at Santa Barbara, 2 on February 13 (Rett).

Ducks—Pintail not yet back to normal,

though 1500 at Bolsa Chica, February 7, was a good showing. Shovellers most abundant of any duck; cinnamon and green-winged teals in hundreds. We now consider blue-winged teal as regular in small numbers; pair at Santa Barbara, February 13 (R.); 2 at Gilman's Hot Spring, March 10 (Comby); 1 at Playa del Rey, March 14 (Field Group of L. A. Audubon); and 3 on Mission Bay, San Diego, March 18 (Crouch). Among diving ducks, the only redheads were 5 at Devil's Gate Dam, Pasadena, March 10 (D.); ring-necks, 1 at Dominguez Lagoon, February 14 (M.), and 2 females March 10 at Devil's Gate, where 10 to 15 wintered last year. The largest merganser flock of recent years (in lowlands) at Silver Lake in the city of Los Angeles, February 8, approximately 200 Americans and 23 red-breasted (S.). Greatest rarity: a male scoter (species?) at Recreation Gun Club, Playa del Rey, February 1 to at least March 14 (Stultz and many others).

Hawks—A pair of bald eagles at Cuyamaca Lake, San Diego County, February 28 (Huey) is the second record this year from inland lakes. One red-bellied hawk at Santa Anita Rancho (where formerly bred) in February after an absence of several years (Hays). Duck hawks and pigeon hawks both over coastal marshes, the latter also at L. A., February 8 (Kent), and several near Chatsworth, February 13 (W. B. Lewis).

Shore Birds—Plovers were scarce or absent in most reports, though 30 semipalmated in February and 100 black-bellied on March 14 would perhaps indicate paucity of observers rather than birds. Twelve hundred dowitchers at Bolsa Chica, February 7, was an unusual concentration. Black-necked stilt and Florida gallinule, 2 each at Mugu, March 14 (D.), and at Dominguez Lagoon, March 22 (K.). Two lesser yellow-legs on Playa del Rey marshes, February 4, carefully observed and compared in size with nearby willets (Daugherty) the first definite identification in winter.

Gulls—Glaucous-winged fairly common but much fewer than last year; herring reported 6 times, 19 on February, 4 being a remarkably large number for this species. Last Heermann's gulls seen at Redondo in late February (White). One immature

short-billed gull on Santa Monica beach, March 14 (Cogswell, Eckelberry).

Just the usual Forster's terns, plus one common tern, February 13 at a beach near Los Angeles (Kent). No jaegers or Alcids reported at all.

Nesting—In Pasadena most band-tailed pigeons were in pairs by late February (2 months earlier than last year); Mr. W. I. Allen reports five pairs nesting near his banding station in Altadena, one having young hatched on February 11, the earliest yet recorded. In 1942 they nested here from May to November. Other species building or incubating include: mourning and Chinese spotted doves, black phoebe, crow, California jay, bush-tit, mockingbird, shrike, Brewer's blackbird and house finch, the last two building en masse during late March. Tule marsh wrens had 2 nests on February 7 at Bolsa Chica; Allen's hummingbird—first nest at Santa Barbara, March 7, destroyed by jays, rebuilt, and incubating again by March 31 (Rett). In the oaks of west Arcadia a pair of barn owls was seen in mating activities on March 27 (Cogswell).

Wintering species—Cedar waxwings diminished rapidly after late February in Pasadena, followed by marked increases in Ojai (Griffith) and San Diego (Crouch). A recent canvass of observers concerning the waxwing's food indicates the reason for the earlier abundance in Pasadena is the good camphor tree berry supply there. Robins also showed similar changes in numbers at about that time, for probably the same reason. Cassin's kingbird left its wintering grounds about March 15, arrived on nesting grounds at Lakeside, March 28 (Gander). Latest reported Say's phoebe, March 24 at Pasadena (Chaffey); Lewis's woodpecker, March 7 at Sierra Madre (Cogs.); varied thrush, 2 at Ojai, March 2 (Griffith) and 2 at Sunland, March 8 (K.).

Migration—The earliest arrival as usual was Allen's hummingbird, February 20 at San Diego (Crouch) and Ojai (Griffith). First Texas nighthawk at La Mesa, March 29 (C.); western kingbird at San Diego, March 27; western flycatcher very early on March 12 at Santa Barbara (Rett); warbling vireo, March 28 at San Gabriel River Sanctuary; lutescent warbler, March 20 at Lakeside (Gander); Bullock's oriole, March 16 at San Diego (Crouch). Some

stragglers far in advance of usual dates were; black-headed grosbeak, February 4 at Pasadena (Lilleland); hooded oriole, February 19 at Pasadena (Cogs.) and February 28 at Santa Barbara (R.); poor-will, February 25, and blue grosbeak, March 31, at Eagle Rock (Curry); black-throated gray warbler, February 28 at San Gabriel River Sanctuary and March 15 at Fern Dell, L. A., recorded every month except December this past year.

Rarities—The painted redstart wintering in Altadena was last seen March 23 (W. I. Allen). At San Gabriel River Sanctuary Mr. Comby found a first year male summer tanager on February 12, and a sub-adult Harris's sparrow on March 27 (seen by many observers into April—first southwest California record?). A yellow-shafted flicker found dead on Washington Junior High School grounds, Pasadena, February 4, specimen preserved (Lilleland). Sage thrasher, 1 at Sunland, January 19 (Kent), 2 at Sweetwater Lake, February 28 (Crouch) and 3 at 29 Palms in late March (D.), where they are apparently rather regular. Red crossbill, 3 at Ojai, February 27, and 1 on April 4—in same pines as red-breasted nuthatches (Griffith, Harwell).

Desert areas—Mrs. Daugherty sends the following observations, March 28 to April 3, from 29 Palms where a small oasis creates a veritable birdwatcher's paradise. Species found nesting were: Costa's hummingbird, Say's phoebe, verdin, cactus wren, Leconte's thrasher, plumbeous gnatcatcher, phainopepla, hooded oriole, desert sparrow, and the mockingbird and house finch, which last two species are common and apparently extending their range here onto the open desert as far as 35 miles from any habitation. Other typical desert birds listed: prairie falcon, Gambel's quail, road-runner, Scott's oriole, Abert's towhee, and vermilion flycatcher. There were also many migrants, including black-chinned and calliope hummingbirds, all three goldfinches, Brewer's sparrow, green-tailed towhee, and Audubon's and lutescent and pileolated warblers, the warblers very common but greatly outnumbered by Gambel's sparrows, which were "just about carpeting the desert floor—and everywhere up to about 3500 feet." —HOWARD L. COGSWELL, 3807 Sierra Grande St., Pasadena, Calif.